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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT ON THE COSTS IN  
NEW MEXICO OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE, WHICH DISPROPORTIONATELY  
AFFECTS AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC NEW MEXICANS.

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is the most common inherited  
blood disorder in the country; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease creates a chronic, painful  
condition that affects people throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, most patients with sickle  
cell disease are of African, Hispanic or Mediterranean descent;  
and

WHEREAS, people of all ethnic backgrounds can have sickle  
cell disease; and

WHEREAS, about one in three hundred seventy-five African  
American babies and one in one thousand to one thousand four

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1 hundred Hispanic babies are diagnosed with sickle cell disease  
2 each year in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, the average lifespan of a person with sickle cell  
4 disease is only forty-five years; and

5 WHEREAS, approximately one in every four thousand  
6 Americans is born with a form of sickle cell disease; and

7 WHEREAS, two and one-half million Americans have the  
8 sickle cell trait; and

9 WHEREAS, sickle cell disease affects the lives of  
10 thousands who are hampered by physical and mental limitations  
11 and debilitating pain; and

12 WHEREAS, while research and treatment are progressing,  
13 patients with sickle cell disease suffer from dangerous blood  
14 clots and are prone to strokes;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
16 OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to  
17 study the affects and incidence of sickle cell disease in New  
18 Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health be  
20 requested to report to the interim legislative health and human  
21 services committee on its findings by the committee's November  
22 2007 meeting; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the secretary of health, the chair and vice-  
25 chair of the health and human services committee and to the

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governor.